

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

VIKRAM DATTA,

Plaintiff,

-against-

DEA AGENTS, et al.,

Defendants.

1:21-CV-2494 (CM)

ORDER DIRECTING PAYMENT OF FEES  
OR IFP APPLICATION AND PRISONER  
AUTHORIZATION

COLLEEN McMAHON, Chief United States District Judge:

Plaintiff, a prisoner currently held in the Federal Residential Reentry Management Field Office in San Antonio, Texas, brings this action *pro se*. To proceed with a civil action in this court, a prisoner must either pay \$402.00 in fees – a \$350.00 filing fee plus a \$52.00 administrative fee – or, to request authorization to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP), that is, without prepayment of fees, submit a completed and signed IFP application and prisoner authorization. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914, 1915. If the Court grants a prisoner’s IFP application, the Prison Litigation Reform Act requires the Court to collect the \$350.00 filing fee in installments deducted from the prisoner’s prison trust fund account. *See* § 1915(b)(1). A prisoner seeking to proceed in this court without prepayment of fees must therefore authorize the court to withdraw these payments from his prison trust fund account by filing a “prisoner authorization,” which directs the facility where the prisoner is held to deduct the \$350.00 filing fee<sup>1</sup> from the prisoner’s prison trust fund account in installments and to send to the court certified copies of the prisoner’s prison trust fund account statements for the past six months. *See* § 1915(a)(2), (b).

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<sup>1</sup> The \$52.00 administrative fee for filing a federal civil action does not apply to persons granted IFP status under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

Plaintiff submitted the complaint without the relevant fees or a completed IFP application and prisoner authorization. Within thirty days of the date of this order, Plaintiff must either pay the \$402.00 in fees or complete and submit the attached IFP application and prisoner authorization forms. If Plaintiff submits the IFP application and prisoner authorization, they should be labeled with docket number 1:21-CV-2494 (CM).<sup>2</sup>

The Clerk of Court is directed to mail a copy of this order to Plaintiff and note service on the docket. No summons shall issue at this time. If Plaintiff complies with this order, this action shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of the Clerk's Office. If Plaintiff fails to comply with this order within the time allowed, this action will be dismissed.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore IFP status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf. Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444-45 (1962) (holding that appellant demonstrates good faith when seeking review of a nonfrivolous issue).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 24, 2021  
New York, New York



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COLLEEN McMAHON  
Chief United States District Judge

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<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff is cautioned that if a prisoner files a federal civil action or appeal that is dismissed as malicious, frivolous, or for failure to state a claim on which relief may be granted, the dismissal is a "strike" under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). A prisoner who receives three "strikes" cannot file federal civil actions IFP as a prisoner, unless he is under imminent danger of serious physical injury, and must pay the relevant fees at the time of filing any new federal civil action.